

# Old First Presbyterian Church

## seeking:

*Where are you headed?*



“power play” by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

## Palm Sunday April 2, 2023

### Worship Through Praising God

*Please fill out a guest card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher.*

*Silence is requested as we prepare our hearts for worship.*

*\* At the asterisk, please rise in body or spirit.*

**Prelude** Variations sur un thème du Clément Jannequin      Jehan Alain (1911-1940)  
Litanies

*“When the Christian soul no longer finds new words in its distress to implore God’s mercy, it repeats incessantly the same invocation with a vehement faith. Reason has reached its limits. Alone, faith pursues its ascension.”*

**Welcome and  
Church Life**

**Introit**

Melchior Teschner (1584-1635)

Arranged William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

All Glory, Laud, and Honor to thee, Redeemer, King,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!  
Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,  
Who in the Lord's name comest, the King and blessed Son.

Theodulph of Orleans (c.760-821)

Translated John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

**\*Call to  
Worship**

Pastor Henderson, Jan Hammock

Pastor Where is he going?  
Liturgist Isn't he from Nazareth?  
**People Can anything good come from Nazareth?**  
Pastor Is he headed to Jerusalem?  
Liturgist Do you think Jerusalem is safe?  
**People Does he know that Pilate is here?**  
Pastor Where is he going?  
Liturgist Does he know the city is dangerous?  
**People Does he see the Pharisees watching?**  
Pastor Is this the one we've been waiting for?  
Liturgist Could this be the Messiah?  
**People Where is he going?**  
Choir The crowds are singing, "Hosanna!"  
Pastor Should I lay down my cloak?  
Liturgist Is this the beginning of the end?  
**People Should we follow?**  
Pastor Should we watch?  
Choir Should we sing, "Hosanna"?  
Liturgist Stay awake!  
**People He's on the move.**  
Pastor Where is he going?  
Liturgist Listen.  
**People Where is he going?**  
Pastor Watch.  
Liturgist Where is he going?  
**People Stay close.**  
Pastor Where is he going?  
Choir Sing, "Hosanna!"  
**All Hosanna in the highest!**

**\*Hymn 197**

**Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

*We wave our palm branches as we sing.*

1 **Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;  
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,  
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

- 2 From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,  
the victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;  
the lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,  
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.
- 3 "Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,  
for Christ is our Redeemer; the Lord of heaven, our King.  
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,  
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

Prayer of  
Confession

Jan Hammock

On this Sunday, O God,  
we remember how quickly we change.  
We remember how fickle we are—  
how we pledge our devotion one moment  
and turn our backs the next.  
We go from shouting "Hosanna! Save Us!"  
to "Crucify Him."  
We declare that we love our neighbors  
and then we turn our backs  
on the homeless and hungry in our communities.  
We speak up for change and justice in one breath,  
and then continue unjust practices in daily lives  
by what we consume and the needs we ignore.  
Forgive us, O God, for we are half-hearted believers.  
Forgive us, O God, for we are partial justice warriors.  
Forgive us, O God, for we tire easily, we forget, and we grow weary.

*Silence is kept.*

Forgive us, restore us, and renew us for the journey of faith,  
so that we might become whole people  
who live wholly into your vision of new life.  
In the name of Christ,  
who lived into the fullness of humanity,  
and whom we follow. Amen.

\*Assurance of  
Forgiveness

Leader

Hosanna to David's Son!  
Blessed is the One who comes in God's name:  
not to judge us, but to save us.

People

**We humble ourselves in gratitude to God,  
and in service to others, even as Christ did.  
Hosanna in the highest. Amen!**

\*Hymn 205

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

**Ubi caritas et amor,**      *Where love and affection are -*  
**Ubi caritas Deo ibi est.**      *Where love is, God is there.*

Offering

*Ushers will now receive the offering. You may also make your offering electronically using the kiosk in the narthex.*

**Anthem** From Messiah G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,  
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors,  
and the King of Glory shall come in!

Who is this King of Glory?

The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates,  
and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors,  
and the King of Glory shall come in!

Who is this King of Glory?

The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.

Psalm 24:7-10

**\*Doxology**

DUKE STREET

Arranged by Hal H. Hopson (born 1933)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Time with Our  
Children**

**\*The Peace**

Leader Peace be with you.

People **And also with you.**

<b>Worship Through Hearing God's Word</b>
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**Prayers of the  
People**

Betty Voris

Prayer Partners Pierre Moyé, Lois Nason, J. Herbert Nelson (Stated Clerk of the PC-USA),  
Bryan Nichols and Robin Currier, Chuck and Emily Olson, Karyn Payne,  
Daniel Pearch

**The Lord's  
Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Scripture**

Matthew 21:2-11, 27:15-25

Leader For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God within us,  
For the Word of God among us,

People **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Henderson

**Affirmation of Faith** We believe in a God who walks headfirst into the world's suffering,  
 who lights a candle in the darkest night,  
 who pulls back the curtain so we can see the stars.  
 We believe in a God who does not shy away from the truth,  
 who is bold in seeking justice,  
 and humble in taking power.  
 We believe in a God who sees our hurt and wraps love around it,  
 cocooning us in hope,  
 tethering us to one another.  
 We believe in a God who is always carrying us  
 from the pain of the world  
 into the hope of a new day.  
 That is where God is headed.  
 That is where we follow.  
 May it be so. Amen.

<b>Worship Through Responding to God's Word</b>
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- \*Hymn 200** A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd
- 1 A cheering, changing, dizzy crowd  
 had stripped the green trees bare,  
 and hailing Christ as king aloud,  
 waved branches in the air.
  - 2 They laid their garments in the road  
 and spread his path with palms  
 and vows of lasting love bestowed  
 with royal hymns and psalms.
  - 3 When day dimmed down to deepening dark  
 the crowd began to fade  
 till only trampled leaves and bark  
 were left from the parade.
  - 4 Lest we be fooled because our hearts  
 have surged with passing praise,  
 remind us, God, as this week starts  
 where Christ has fixed his gaze.
  - 5 Instead of palms, a winding sheet  
 will have to be unrolled,  
 a carpet much more fit to greet  
 the king a cross will hold.

**\*Charge and  
 Benediction**

**Choir**

Matthew Glandorf (born 1972)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you;  
 not as the world gives do I give unto you.

John 14:27

**Old First Presbyterian Church**

**Sharing God's Love, Welcome, and Justice on Our Corner, in Our City, and in the World**

[www.oldfirst.org](http://www.oldfirst.org) · 415-776-5552 · Find Us on Facebook and YouTube

**Holy Week 2023**

**Maundy Thursday, April 6**

There will be no service at Old First,  
so please join one of our sister churches for worship on Maundy Thursday:  
4:00 pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1755 Clay Street at Van Ness Avenue, or  
7:00 pm at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2515 Fillmore Street at Jackson Street

**Good Friday, April 7**

**7:00 pm** at Old First Presbyterian Church

**Easter Sunday, April 9**

**10:30 am** Choral Prelude and **11:00 am** Worship at Old First Presbyterian Church

Followed by an Easter Extravaganza Coffee Hour.

Please bring treats to share!

**Second Sunday of Easter, April 16**

**11:00 am** Worship with Hymns and Communion at Old First Presbyterian Church

**Today's Liturgy and Art: A Sanctified Art**

This Lent we are using "Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith," creative resources for Lent and Easter from A Sanctified Art, a collaborative offering support to worshipping communities in integrating art and creativity into their spiritual practices.

The call to worship and affirmation of faith are adapted from prayers by the Reverend Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [www.sanctifiedart.org](http://www.sanctifiedart.org)

Today's cover art is "power play," a silk painting with digital drawing and collage, by Lisle Gwynn Garrity. The artist was inspired by Matthew 21:1-11. Of the image she writes:

"In their book, *The Last Week*, theologians Marcus Borg and John Crossman assert that there were actually two parades occurring simultaneously in Jerusalem on this day. From the east, Jesus entered on a donkey. From the west, the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, entered with an imperial guard. They write: "Jesus' procession proclaimed the kingdom of God; Pilate's proclaimed the power of empire. The two processions embody the central conflict of the week that led to Jesus' crucifixion."

"This image is a meditation on these opposing processions and the embodiment of power. Pilate processes with a pompous display of armor, accompanied by soldiers. For him, power is displayed by superiority, elitism, and weaponry. Later in the week, he will use his power to satisfy the crowds willing Jesus to be crucified, despite not finding any offense to justify it (read John 18 & 19). He uses his power for violence, to appease the status quo.

"Jesus enters the city on a donkey with her young colt in tow. He wears no armor, only soft linens. In this image, I imagine if the composition were expanded, Jesus would be kneeling, humbling himself before his disciples as he washes their feet. In Jesus' processional, members of the crowd lay down their coats as a display of humility and honor. This foreshadows the way Jesus will take off his outer robe and tie a towel around his waist to wash his friends' feet. Jesus embodies power through a posture of vulnerability, through caring for those who desperately need love.

“Which parade you would join in Jerusalem has a lot to say about your definition of power. If you are quick to place yourself in Jesus’ parade, I encourage you to pause and consider these questions honestly: When have you aligned yourself with systems or people who have used their power for violence or to uphold the status quo? When have you embodied power through vulnerability and love for your neighbor?”

### Today’s Eco-Palms

By choosing Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday, Old First promotes environmental and social justice:

- Instead of whole palms being cut down for a few fronds, Eco-Palms are sustainably harvested to keep the palms alive, thus providing shade and soil stability necessary for a healthy forest.
- Instead of most of the income going to market-traders, Eco-Palms provide gatherers in Guatemala and Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula with a greater share of the income from fairly traded palms.

The Eco-Palms program was founded by the University of Minnesota Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM) working together with the Rainforest Alliance TREES program and Smartwood, who certify the palms harvested from the forests of Mexico and Guatemala sustainably. You can learn more by visiting their website: <https://ecopalms.org/index.php>

The Eco-Palms project is endorsed by the Disciples of Christ, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the Episcopal Church as well as Lutheran and Methodist relief agencies.

### OGHS Offering, Fish Boxes

Remember to bring your One Great Hour of Sharing offering – including your “fish box” – to worship on Easter Sunday, next Sunday, April 9.

### Easter Flowers

Are you interested in sponsoring the flowers for Easter Sunday? For each fifteen dollar contribution you make, a dedication and your name will appear in the Easter bulletin. Please contact the church office **no later than tomorrow, Monday, April 3**, and let Brad know the amount you’re contributing and whom you’d like to remember or honor or for what blessing you’d like to give thanks. You can call Brad at 415-776-5552 or send him an E-mail: [brad@oldfirst.org](mailto:brad@oldfirst.org)

### Easter Extravaganza Coffee Hour

For Easter Sunday – this coming Sunday – we will plan for an Easter Extravaganza Coffee Hour. Please feel free to bring your favorite treats to share! Whether home-made or store-bought your contribution to the abundance will be welcome.

### Inquirer and Membership Classes

Want to know more about Old First? Curious about the Presbyterian Church (USA)? Wondering about joining the church? If so, Pastor Maggi would like to talk with you: She’s thinking about holding Inquirer and Membership Classes for folks interested in life and membership at Old First Presbyterian Church. Speak with her at coffee hour, call her at the church office, or send her an E-mail: [maggi@oldfirst.org](mailto:maggi@oldfirst.org)

**This Week at Old First**

**Sunday April 2, Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday**

7:15 pm Friendly Circle AA Meeting, Fellowship Hall

**Friday April 7, Good Friday**

7:00 pm Worship

**Sunday April 9, Easter Sunday**

10:30 am Choral Prelude

11:00 am Worship followed by Easter Extravaganza Coffee Hour

**Monday April 10, Easter Monday**

Church Office Closed

**Old First Presbyterian Church Staff**

The Reverend Maggi Henderson Pastor

The Reverend Erwin C. Barron Parish Associate

The Reverend Lisa Robecheck Parish Associate

Larry Marietta Music Director

Jarron Carlson Composer in Residence

Brad Peterson Office Admin

Kiristi Hoerauf Wedding Coordinator